

Geographic Landform Definitions

Terms	Definitions
bay	an area of the ocean that is partially enclosed by land; smaller than a gulf
gulf	a LARGE area of ocean partially surrounded by land; larger than a bay
lake	a large body of fresh water surrounded by land
ocean	the great body of salt water that covers almost three-fourths of Earth's surface
river	a large natural stream of fresh water that flows into a lake or an ocean
sea	a body of water that is usually part of an ocean, and is partially or wholly enclosed by land
strait	a narrow channel of water that connects two larger bodies of water
tributary	a stream or river that flows into a larger stream or river
plain	a large area of flat land
plateau	a large area of HIGH flat land
valley	land that lies between mountains or hills
volcano	an opening in the Earth's crust from which lava, ashes, and gasses erupt
isthmus	a narrow piece of land joining two larger pieces of land
mountain	a high, steep piece of land that rises sharply above the surrounding area
mountain range	a group or chain of mountains

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peninsula	a piece of land that is mostly surrounded by water, but is connected to the mainland
archipelago	a chain of islands in a broad area of water
canyon	a deep, narrow valley with steep slopes
desert	a large area of land with little or no water or vegetation
island	an area of land surrounded by water on all sides